

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for instructing mathematics, comprising:  
  
a work surface;  
  
a plurality of movable elements, each of the movable elements comprising, on a front surface thereof, at least a portion of a visible mathematical symbol thereon readable via eyesight, each of the movable elements further comprises an attachment member on a rearward surface to attach the moveable element to the work surface, the attachment member being adapted to allow the moveable element to be removed from the work surface and to be slidably positionable to generally any position on the work surface once attached thereto.
2. The device of claim 1 further comprising a frame around the work surface, the frame defining a boundary for positioning of the movable elements.
3. The device of claim 2 wherein magnetic attraction is used to maintain the attachment member in movable connection with the board.
4. The device of claim 3 wherein the visible symbols on the movable elements are enlarged so as to be visible by a visually impaired person.
5. The device of claim 4 wherein the movable elements are stored around the perimeter of the work surface to be readily available to a user of the device.
6. The device of claim 5 wherein a plurality movable elements are provided having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.
7. The device of claim 6 wherein each of the plurality of movable elements having a like symbol thereon is stored in a group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the groups of movable elements having a like symbol thereon being spaced in position from the other groups.
8. The device of claim 6 wherein each of the plurality of movable element having a like symbol thereon is stored in a stacked group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the stacked groups of movable elements having a like symbol thereon being spaced in position from the other groups.

9. The device of claim 4 wherein the movable elements are stored in a multicompartment storage container, each movable element with a different symbol thereon being stored in a separate compartment of the storage container.

10. The device of claim 9 wherein a plurality movable elements are provided having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

11. The device of claim 10 wherein each of the plurality of movable elements having a like symbol thereon is stored in a group in a separate compartment within the storage container.

12. The device of claim 3 wherein each of the movable elements further comprises indicia on the front surface thereof corresponding to the visible symbol that is readable via the sense of touch to identify the visible symbol.

13. The device of claim 12 wherein the movable elements are stored around the perimeter of the work surface to be readily available to a user of the device.

14. The device of claim 13 wherein a plurality movable elements are provided having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

15. The device of claim 14 wherein each of the plurality of movable elements having a like symbol thereon is stored in a group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the groups of movable elements having a like symbol thereon being spaced in position from the other groups.

16. The device of claim 14 wherein each of the plurality of movable elements having like symbols thereon is stored in a stacked group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the stacked groups of movable elements being spaced in position from the other groups.

17. The device of claim 12 wherein the movable elements are stored in a multicompartment storage container, each movable element with a different symbol thereon being stored in a separate compartment of the storage container.

18. The device of claim 17 wherein a plurality movable elements are provided having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

19. The device of claim 18 wherein each group of the plurality of movable elements having a like symbol thereon is stored in a separate compartment within the storage container.

20. The device of claim 1 wherein the visible symbols include numerals from 0 to 9, a plus sign, a minus sign, a multiplication sign, a division sign, an equal sign, and at least one type of bar for representing processes.

21. The device of claim 20 wherein the symbols further include a decimal point, a question mark and a remainder symbol.

22. A method for instructing mathematics, comprising:  
  
providing a work surface to a student;  
  
providing a plurality of movable elements for use in connection with the work surface, each of the movable elements comprising on a front surface thereof at least a portion of a visible symbol readable via eyesight, each of the moveable elements further comprising an attachment member on a rearward surface to attach the moveable element to the work surface, the attachment member being adapted to allow the moveable element to be removed from the work surface and to be slidably positionable to any position on the work surface once attached thereto.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the work surface includes a frame around a perimeter thereof, the frame defining a boundary for positioning of the movable elements.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein magnetic attraction is used to maintain the attachment member in movable connection with the board.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the visible symbols on the movable elements are enlarged so as to be visible by a visually impaired person.

26. The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of storing the movable elements around the perimeter of the work surface to be readily available to a user of the device.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein a plurality movable elements are provided having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein each of the plurality of movable elements having a like symbol thereon is stored in a group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the groups of movable elements having a like symbol thereon being spaced in position from the other groups.

29. The method of claim 27 wherein each of the plurality of movable elements having a like symbol thereon is stored in a stacked group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the stacked groups of movable elements having a like symbol thereon being spaced in position from the other groups.

30. The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of storing the movable elements in a multicompartment storage container, each movable element with a different symbol thereon being stored in a separate compartment of the storage container.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein a plurality movable elements are provided having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein each group of the plurality of movable elements having a like symbol thereon is stored in a separate compartment within the storage container.

33. The method of claim 24 wherein each of the movable elements further comprises indicia on the front surface thereof corresponding to the visible symbol that is readable via the sense of touch to identify the visible symbol.

34. The method of claim 33 further comprising the step of storing the movable elements around the perimeter of the work surface to be readily available to a user of the device.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein a plurality movable elements are provided having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein each of the plurality of movable element having a like symbol thereon is stored in a group around the perimeter of the work

surface, each of the groups of movable elements having a like symbol thereon being spaced in position from the other groups.

37. The method of claim 35 wherein each of the plurality of movable element having a like symbol thereon is stored in a stacked group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the stacked groups of movable elements having a like symbol thereon being spaced in position from the other groups.

38. The method of claim 33 wherein the movable elements are stored in a multicompartment storage container, each movable element with a different symbol thereon being stored in a separate compartment of the storage container.

39. The method of claim 38 wherein a plurality movable elements are provide having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

40. The method of claim 39 wherein each group of the plurality of movable element having a like symbol thereon is stored in a separate compartment within the storage container.

41. The method of claim 40 wherein the visible symbols include numerals from 0 to 9, a plus sign, a minus sign, a multiplication sign, a division sign, an equal sign, and at least one type bar for representing processes.

42. The method of claim 41 wherein the symbols further include a decimal point, a question mark and a remainder symbol.

43. A method of teaching mathematics in a class of students including at least one sighted student and at least one visually impaired student, comprising:

creating mathematical equations on a display for viewing by the sighted student;

providing a work surface to a visually impaired student;

providing a plurality of movable elements for use in connection with the work surface, each of the movable elements comprising, on a front surface thereof, at least a portion of a visible mathematical symbol thereon readable via eyesight, each of the movable elements further comprising an attachment member on a rearward surface to attach the moveable element to the work surface, the attachment member being adapted to allow the movable element to be

removed from the work surface and to be slidably positionable to any position on the work surface once attached thereto; and

having the visually impaired student construct mathematical equations on the work surface which are displayed upon the display using the symbols of the movable elements by appropriate arrangement of the movable elements, the mathematical equations constructed by the visually impaired student being of substantially the same form as the mathematical equations created upon the display.

44. The method of claim 43 wherein magnetic attraction is used to maintain the attachment member in movable connection with the board.

45. The method of claim 44 wherein the visible symbols on the movable elements are enlarged so as to be visible by the visually impaired student.

46. The method of claim 44 wherein each of the movable elements further comprises indicia on the front surface thereof corresponding to the visible symbol that is readable via the sense of touch to identify the visible symbol.

47. The method of claim 46 further comprising the step of storing the movable elements around the perimeter of the work surface to be readily available to visually impaired student.

48. The method of claim 47 wherein a plurality movable elements are provided having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

49. The method of claim 48 wherein each of the plurality of movable elements having a like symbol thereon is stored in a group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the groups of movable elements having a like symbol thereon being spaced in position from the other groups.

50. The method of claim 48 wherein each of the plurality of movable elements having like symbols thereon is stored in a stacked group around the perimeter of the work surface, each of the stacked groups of movable elements being spaced in position from the other groups.

51. The method of claim 48 wherein the movable elements are stored in a multicompartment storage container, each movable element with a different symbol thereon being stored in a separate compartment of the storage container.

52. The method of claim 51 wherein a plurality movable elements are provided having the same symbol thereon for at least a portion of the symbols.

53. The method of claim 52 wherein each group of the plurality of movable elements having a like symbol thereon is stored in a separate compartment within the storage container.